CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Living in society is never without problems, life will become more complicated when problems appear. Social, political condition, and economical problems cannot be avoided. The problem can be injustice, racism, and discrimination. Social problems may appear and become abundant that create and reveal many other problems. It is even not impossible that problems can result a decrease in morality of the people in society.

All of the problems need solutions. If not, they need at least to be minimized. For this, some appropriate tools are needed. The tools can be religious improvement, educational development, moral teaching, message, and wisdom conveyance.

Literature perhaps is one of the solutions used to make the society live in a better condition. A literary work contains messages, moral values and a philosophy of life which great values to be taken. Literature and society cannot be separated, because literature is basically a part of society. Wellek and Werren (1956: 94) state:

> " Literature is a social institution using as its medium language, a social creation . Such as traditional literary devices as symbolism and metre are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms, which could have arisen only in society. Futhermore, "literature" represent"life", and 'life' is, in a large measure, a social reality, eventhough their natural

world and the inner or subjective of word of individual also been object of literary limitation."

Literary work can be viewed as a reflection of life or a picture of a society at certain time. An author, with his or her ideas, intelligence and good sensitivity, is able to display the reality of the society around him. Many socials case, the practice of injustice, oppression, discrimination, sexual harassment, and women mockery can touch the author senses to create a work.

People of good fortune in education and income are considered as an upper class. Meanwhile, people of poor family, less educated, and have low connection are considered as a lower class. A gab class then arises. It can be seen through the treatment of the upper class toward lower class. The upper class usually looks at the lower class as unimportant people. They are proud of themselves. The lower class conversely looks at the upper class as people who have authority and they should be respected and afraid of.

Alexandre Dumas is the author of *The Count of Monte Cristo*, who was born in northeastern town of Villers-cotterets, France, on July 24, 1802. He is the most profile and loved writers of the 19th century. Alexandre Dumas excels in both the dramatic genre and the romantic novel. His work involves some adventure plot, which depicts the heroic triumph of human strength and endurance.

The Count of Monte Cristo is often listed as one of the ten best novels all of time. It is rather the imagery of the man acting as a force of divine justice that has senses. This novel describes the figure of the main character,

Edmond Dantes who will be the next captain of the Marseiles ship when the captain died in the route. Dumas shows how Dantes' struggle in his life as a political prisoner for fifteen years and revenge his enemies who are conspiring him to become prisoner (Bonapartist agent).

In the nineteenth century people grew up wealthy rapidly in France. People who had money and authority could take part in the *Parisien society* (upper class). It means that the power of money and authority can make people have strong position in the society, so they can make hardness and oppression to people who have not position in society (lower class or worker class).

Based on the illustration above, the writer is interested in analyzing this novel using *Marxist approach*. This research focuses on the struggle of Dantes to get justice and status as Parisien society. In this study, the writer dares to give tittle ***The Struggle for Justice in the Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas: A Marxist Approach.***

B. Literature Review

The student of Sanata Dharma University, Ike Handayani has analyzed the novel, *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Her research entitled A Comparative Study of Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* and Carcaterras' *Sleeper*. So, here the writer is interested in to analyzing this novel.

Whereas The Marxist Analysis of Alexandre Dumas' novel has never been studied as far as the writer is known, at least among the students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, that is why the writer in this

occasion attempts to study the Dumas' view of justice and class stratification in his novel.

C. Problem Statement

The problem exposed in this study is as follows:

What is Dantes' motive to change his status into *Parisien society*?

D. Objective of the Research

The objective of the research as follows:

1. To analyze the structure of the work based on its structural elements.

2. To analyze the work based on the Marxist perspective.

E. Benefit of the Research

The benefit of the research deals with:

1. Theoretical benefit is to contribute to the body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on Alexandre Dumas' in *The Count of Monte Cristo.*

2. Practical benefit to fulfil requirement for getting Bachelor of Education in English Department.

F. Research Method

1. Type of Research

   This research belongs to qualitative research because it does not need a statistic to explore the fact. Qualitative research is type of research which does not include any calculation and enumeration.

2. Type of Data and Data Sources

   The type of data used in this research is textual data which consist of words, phrases, and sentences. The data are classified into two categories namely primary data and secondary data. The sources of primary data are taken from the novel itself while the secondary data are taken from some books of literary, Marxist theories and other material which relate to the analysis.

3. Data-Collecting Technique

   In data collecting, the writer chooses library research. The technique of data collection is done by following steps.

   a. Reading and learning both primary and secondary data.

   b. Identifying the data obtained for the analysis.

   c. Classifying the data into some categories.

   d. Selecting some particular parts considered important and relevant for the analysis.

   e. Making notes of the parts relevant to the analysis.

4. Data-Analyzing Technique

   The technique used for analyzing the data is descriptive and hermeneutic. Descriptive means the writer interprets the text and content of the novel. Hermeneutic means the writer interprets the text in order to find out the most probable intention of the author.

G. Paper Organization

This thesis consists of six chapters. Chapter I is introduction which deals with background of research, literature review, problem statement, objective of the research, benefit of the research, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory, explaining assumption of the Marxist approach used to analyze novel. Chapter III contains the social background of the France in the nineteenth century. Chapter IV deals with the structural elements of novel which consist of major character and minor character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style and theme. Chapter V is concern the analysis of the Marxist approach toward the appearance. Chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion of the research.